

REMARKS

Applicants have amended claims 1-3, 9, 11-13, 19, 21-23, 29, and 37-39 as set forth above. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the outstanding office action is respectfully requested.

The Office has rejected claims 1-3, 6, 7, 9-13, 16, 17, 19-23, 26, 27, 29-36 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0072998 to Haines et al. (Haines '998), and claims 37-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Haines in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,529,692 to Haines et al. (Haines '692). The Office asserts: "Regarding claim 1, Haines teaches a method comprising: requesting, with a peripheral device (fig. 1; pc purchaser 12) via a communications network (16) connected to the peripheral device, identity of a plurality of suppliers (para. 84, purchaser can request reseller lists) for at least one consumable for the peripheral device; receiving, at the peripheral device via the communications network, information identifying a plurality of suppliers for the at least one consumable in response to the request (para. 84, the purchaser receives updated information from the manufacturer website; para. 89 purchaser can receive a list or preferred or favorite resellers); and indicating, with the peripheral device, one of the identified plurality of suppliers to submit an order for the at least one consumable to the indicated supplier based on the received information, via the communication network (para. 85, the purchaser selects a reseller), wherein the received information further comprises information identifying a quantity of the at least one consumable at each of the identified plurality of suppliers (para. 84 other details from a website maintained by a device manufacturer related to purchase transactions for consumables reads on the quantity information), and the method further comprising the step of displaying or printing each identified quantity of the at least one consumable (fig. 1, user interface 27 has a display 29)."

Haines '998 and Haines '692, alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest, "requesting, with a peripheral printing device via a communications network connected to the peripheral printing device, identity of a plurality of suppliers for at least one consumable for the peripheral printing device; receiving, at the peripheral printing device via the communications network, information identifying a plurality of suppliers for the at least one consumable in response to the request; and indicating, with the peripheral printing

device, one of the identified plurality of suppliers to submit an order for the at least one consumable to the indicated supplier based on the received information, via the communication network” as recited in claim 1, “requesting, with a peripheral printing device via a communications network connected to the peripheral printing device, identity of a plurality of suppliers for at least one consumable for the peripheral printing device; receiving, at the peripheral printing device via the communications network, information identifying a plurality of suppliers for the at least one consumable in response to the request; and indicating, with the peripheral printing device, one of the identified plurality of suppliers to submit an order for the at least one consumable to the indicated supplier based on the received information, via the communication network” as recited in claim 11, or “a receiving system of the peripheral printing device that receives, via the communications network, information identifying a plurality of suppliers for the at least one consumable in response to the request; an indication system, with the peripheral printing device, that indicates one of the identified plurality of suppliers; and an ordering system, with the peripheral printing device, for submitting an order for the at least one consumable to the indicated supplier based on the received information, via the communication network” as recited in claim 21.

As noted above, the Office has asserted that the personal computer (purchaser) 12 in FIG. 1 in Haines '998 is a peripheral device. However, personal computer 12 in FIG. 1 in Haines is not a peripheral printing device as now recited in the claims. Instead, in Haines '998, the peripheral devices are disclosed as dedicated computer peripheral devices 14, 14' neither of which requests, receives, or indicates as recited in the claims. Further, the system and method disclosed in Haines '998 at most merely teaches the conventional method of ordering consumables through a maintainer at a personal computer via an external website maintained by a device manufacturer, not from a peripheral printing device. Similarly, Haines '692 also does not disclose or suggest a peripheral printing device which requests, receives, or indicates as claimed.

In sharp contrast, as noted by the Applicants in paragraph [0016], for example, and shown in FIGs. 3 and 4 of the above-identified patent application, “. . . the graphical user interface 26 is on the printing device 12 . . .” using which a user at the printing device can view and select from a plurality of suppliers, and order consumables from the printing device itself itself. This results in an easy, efficient, and streamlined process for

shopping for the consumable. Accordingly, Applicants' claimed invention has clear advantages over the applied references.

Accordingly, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Office is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1, 11, and 21. Since claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 9, 10, 31, 34, and 37 depend from and contain the limitations of claim 1, claims 12, 13, 16, 17, 19, 20, 32, 35, and 38 depend from and contain the limitations of claim 11, and claims 22, 23, 26, 27, 29, 30, 33, 36, and 39 depend from and contain the limitations of claim 21, they are distinguishable over the cited references and patentable in the same manner as claims 1, 11, and 21.

In view of all of the foregoing, Applicants submit that this case is in condition for allowance and such allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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